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Bi-racial Challenges

Playwright on journey of self-realization

See story, Metro section

Ballet Flamenco

Acclaimed dancer coming to Portland

See story, Metro section



The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

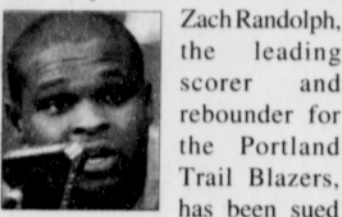
Volume XXXVI, Number 46

Established in 1970
Committed to Cultural Diversity

www.portlandobserver.com
Wednesday • November 15, 2006

Week in The Review

Randolph Sued for \$1 Million



Zach Randolph, the leading scorer and rebounder for the Portland Trail Blazers, has been sued

by a woman who alleges he sexually assaulted her last August at the Hotel Vintage Plaza in downtown Portland. The civil suit seeks at least \$1 million in damages. Randolph was not criminally charged after a police investigation of the complaint.

Grant Stays Undeclared

Grant High School advances in the State Football Championships following last Friday's 7-6 victory over Reynolds. They face West Salem at 7 p.m. this Friday at Lincoln High School. The Generals are undefeated for the season and the only team left in the playoffs from the Portland Interscholastic League.

Legendary Journalist Dies

Legendary '60 Minutes' correspondent Ed Bradley, the pre-eminent African-American journalist of his time, died of complications from leukemia Thursday. Bradley's probing questions and salt-and-pepper beard distinguished him to millions of television viewers. He was 65. See story, page A2



Racial Disparities Persist

Decades after the civil rights movement, racial disparities in income, education and home ownership persist and, by some measurements, are growing. White households had incomes that were two-thirds higher than blacks and 40 percent higher than Hispanics last year, according to data released Tuesday by the Census Bureau.

Stereotypes Hurt Men

Flawed government policies and negative stereotyping of minority men have limited their economic opportunities, a new study says. The study by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies urges improved health care and education for minorities and less media consolidation.

Officer Admits Misconduct

A police officer accused of asking women to lift their skirts during a traffic stop pleaded guilty to official misconduct and resigned from the Portland Police Bureau Monday. John Wood, 31, faces two years of probation and 100 hours of community service. See story, page A2.

Monument for the Ages



Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga. (center), overcome with emotion, with Yolanda King, and Rev. Al Sharpton, take part in the ground breaking ceremony for the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial in Washington Monday. (AP photo)



The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivers his 'I Have a Dream' speech during the 1963 March on Washington, not far from where the King Memorial will be built on the National Mall.

civilian on the Mall.

Clinton, who received a standing ovation from the largely black crowd, noted that the memorial will stand between the Jefferson Memorial and the Lincoln Memorial. He said it is appropriate for King's memorial to be between the man who helped found the nation and the man who protected the nation's ideals during the Civil War.

"It belongs here," Clinton said.

About 5,000 people braved light rain, cold winds and mud for the ceremonial groundbreaking, including poet and novelist Maya Angelou, television personality Oprah Winfrey, the Rev. Jesse Jackson and several members of Congress.

Winfrey credited King and other civil rights leaders with making it possible for her to achieve what she's done.

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Ground Broken for King Memorial

(AP) - President Bush, appearing at a groundbreaking ceremony Monday for a memorial honoring slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., said the National Mall monument will "preserve his legacy for ages."

Under overcast skies, Bush joined former President Clinton and a host of civil rights figures and members of Congress to celebrate the monument to be built not far from where King gave his "I Have a Dream" speech on Aug. 28, 1963.

"When Martin Luther King came to Washington in the summer of 1963," Bush said, "he came to hold this nation to its own standards. ... He stood not far

from here ... with thousands gathered around him. His dream spread a message of hope."

"An assassin's bullet could not shatter his dream," Bush said. "As we break ground, we give Martin Luther King his rightful place among the many Americans honored on the National Mall. It will unite the men who declared the promise of America and defended the promise of America with the man who redeemed the promise of America."

The memorial, to be built roughly a half-mile from the Lincoln Memorial, where King gave his historic speech, will be the first to honor an African American



Bernice King, daughter of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., is kissed by her father's sister Christine King Farris during the ceremonies, marking the beginning of the construction of the King Memorial on the National Mall in Washington D.C. (AP photo)

VOTING In the Neighborhood

Citizens Force Change: Residents Speak Out

Oregonians and citizens nationwide overwhelmingly voted to the left during the Nov. 7 election, forcing Democratic Party control of both houses of Congress for the first time since 1994. The Portland Observer asked people what they hope to see from their new representatives.



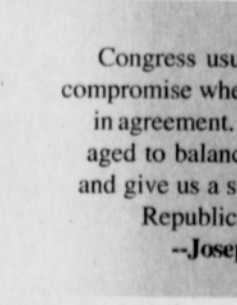
I think we need to look at what people have already tried that doesn't work. We need to take a more active, grassroots role with more local participation.
--Kimmy Figueroa



After 20 years of voting I think they're all the same, but I don't think Congress and the president should ever be in the same party.
--Wayne Wagner



The most exciting thing is increased participation in African American leadership, including the governor-elect of Massachusetts (Deval Patrick) and the Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee (Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y.). I think democrats are the only hope we have for increasing access to health care and education.
--Laticia Tillman



Congress usually tends to compromise when they're not in agreement. Clinton managed to balance the budget and give us a surplus with a Republican Congress.
--Joseph McInturff



I'm excited about (Gov.) Kulongoski because I'm a union man. I'd also like to see some change in the course of action in Iraq.
--Michael Wallingford



Portland Community College offered non-credit classes I was interested in until cutbacks. I think there will be more course offerings, student aid and grants.
--Peter Chang



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Djimet Dogo coordinates services at the new Africa House, providing social and cultural services for thousands of African refugees and citizens living in Oregon.

Africa Center Unites a Continent

Fast growing community served

BY SARAH BLOUNT
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland's Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO) has begun a new chapter for African refugees living in Oregon. The launch of Africa House, a service center supporting immigrants from 28 countries, is the first for Oregon's pan-African community.

The center will extend beyond IRCO's services to help refugees adjust themselves culturally, civically and socially by providing help in navigating American society - social services, health and welfare assistance, education and transportation and

cultural norms.

"We've been dreaming about this for a long time," said Djimet Dogo, the project's coordinator and a native of Chad who moved to Oregon in 1999.

Oregon's African population is one of the state's fastest growing, home to many "second migrants", who moved here from other states. Out of an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 Africans living here, many are refugees living in the upper Willamette Valley.

Dogo said the state can expect even more Africans when an influx of 20,000 central African refugees arrive in the United States next year.

IRCO's advisory board, the African Community Center of Oregon, consulted IRCO on the needs of African refugees, coming up with the Africa House.

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